**Desert-** this type of environment is characterized by having extremely low rainfall. Any water in this area usually evaporates very quickly as there is very little moisture in the air. Deserts can be hot, such as the Arizona desert or can be cold. There is typically not a lack of soil nutrients in a desert environment.

**Tundra-** most of the year temperatures in these areas remain below freezing. Because of this, the soil remains permanently frozen making root systems difficult to grow and water cannot be absorbed into the soil making for slushy muddy conditions.

**Tropical Rainforest-** this type of environment receives high levels of rainfall each year, with 200cm of rainfall annually or more. Sometimes there can be a dry season in a tropical rainforest, but there is no cold winter season in these areas. This environment has several layers: the canopy layer which usually contains very tall trees, the understory layer which is partly shades by the large trees, and the forest floor which receives very little direct sunlight. Due to high amounts of life found in these areas, the soil conditions are generally very poor.

**Temperate Rainforest-** this type of environment receives high levels of rainfall each year, with 200cm of rainfall annually or more. Unlike the tropical rainforest, this environment is found outside of the tropical zone of the earth. Temperatures in these areas are cool, and can sometimes be below freezing in winter.

**Bog (swamp)-** this type of environment receives average amounts of rainfall but rainfall collects on the ground and forms muddy swamps. Soil nutrients in these areas are considered to be poor.

**Grassland-** this type of environment receives average amounts of rainfall per year. There is generally no lack of nutrients in the soil in these areas. The grassland environment can be found almost everywhere on earth.

**Humid Continental-** this is the type of environment found right here in Illinois. Humid continental environments are typically found above 40 degrees north latitude and are not common to the southern hemisphere. There is a winter, spring, summer, and fall found in these areas so temperatures can range from below freezing to very hot. Snowfall and rainfall are very common to these areas.